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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/050,943	01/22/2002	Hideki Uramichi	110951	1971

25944 7590 04/06/2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. BOX 19928
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320

EXAMINER

NELSON JR, MILTON

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3636

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/050,943

Applicant(s)

URAMICHI, HIDEKI

Examiner

Milton Nelson, Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4, 5, 15 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 12-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-11, 17-22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(c) he has abandoned the invention.

(d) the invention was first patented or caused to be patented, or was the subject of an inventor's certificate, by the applicant or his legal representatives or assigns in a foreign country prior to the date of the application for patent in this country on an application for patent or inventor's certificate filed more than twelve months before the filing of the application in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the

requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

(f) he did not himself invent the subject matter sought to be patented.

(g)(1) during the course of an interference conducted under section 135 or section 291, another inventor involved therein establishes, to the extent permitted in section 104, that before such person's invention thereof the invention was made by such other inventor and not abandoned, suppressed, or concealed, or (2) before such person's invention thereof, the invention was made in this country by another inventor who had not abandoned, suppressed, or concealed it. In determining priority of invention under this subsection, there shall be considered not only the respective dates of conception and reduction to practice of the invention, but also the reasonable diligence of one who was first to conceive and last to reduce to practice, from a time prior to conception by the other.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida (6024410). Note the pawls (12A, 12B), first and second leg portions (note Figure 2), low-rigidity portion (note indentation in an outer lateral edge of one of the legs of each pawl, and 14f), ratchet (2), second teeth (21a), holder (10), guide groove (9a, 9b), and cam body (16). In Figure 2, note that the outer lateral edge represents a recess formed in the leg portion in a face opposed to the direction in which the ratchet can turn. Also note that the lateral edge represents a low-rigidity portion that faces a lateral wall of the

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guide groove of the holder. Additionally note that either the lateral edge or section 14f represents a portion of the first and second leg portions with a reduced cross-sectional area.

Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida (6024410). Note the pawls (12A, 12B), first and second leg portions (note Figure 2), low-rigidity portion (note indentation in an outer lateral edge of one of the legs of each pawl, and or 14f), ratchet (2), second teeth (21a), holder (10), guide groove (9a, 9b), and cam body (16). In Figure 2, note that the outer lateral edge represents a recess formed in the leg portion in a face opposed to the direction in which the ratchet can turn. Also note that the lateral edge represents a low-rigidity portion that faces a lateral wall of the guide groove of the holder. Additionally note that either the lateral edge or section 14f represents a portion of the first and second leg portions with a reduced cross-sectional area.

Restriction/Election

Claims 4 and 5 remain withdrawn from further consideration. Election was made in Paper No. 6. Newly filed claims 15 and 16 have been withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 15 and 16 are directed to the non-elected embodiment of claims 4 and 5.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-11 and 17-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Amendment/Arguments

Applicant's response has been fully considered. Remaining issues are detailed in the above sections. Regarding amended independent claim 1, Applicant argues that Yoshida has been overcome because Yoshida fails to disclose the low-rigidity portion formed in each of the first and second leg portions. Yoshida shows low-rigidity portions formed in each of the first and second leg portions. In Figure 2, note the indentation in an outer lateral edge of one of the legs of each pawl, and 14f in the other leg of each pawl. Applicant argues that Yoshida fails to disclose this feature because Yoshida only discloses a groove-cut portion 14e, assumed to be the low-rigidity portion as asserted in the previous Office action, on only one leg portion. The previous Office action has description of the low-rigidity portion as being the indentation in an outer lateral edge of one of the legs of each pawl. The low-rigidity portion in each leg, as now claimed, includes the previously described indentation in the outer lateral edge of one of the legs, and the new described member 14f. Applicant further argues that Yoshida fails to disclose, at least, a low-rigidity portion that is formed to face a lateral wall of the guide groove of the holder as recited in newly added independent claim 12. It can be seen that the low-rigidity portion (i.e. the lateral outer edge) of the pawl faces a lateral wall of the guide groove (9a or 9b, as shown in Figures 4 and 5). Applicant further argues that

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Yoshida fails to disclose this feature because Yoshida's groove-cut portion 14e is ~~formed to only face the other leg portion and not a lateral wall of a guide groove of a~~ holder. As described, above the lateral outer edge meets this limitation. Application of Yoshida to the claims is proper.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

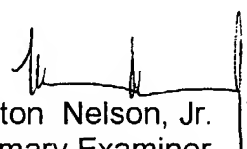
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Milton Nelson, Jr. whose telephone number is 7033082117. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 5:30-3:00.

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The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding
~~is assigned is 703-872-9306.~~

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Milton Nelson, Jr.
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3636

mn
April 5, 2004